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104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4191

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study of the effect on payments under Medicare where certain inpatient services are replaced by outpatient services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. STARK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study of the effect on payments under Medicare where certain inpatient services are replaced by outpatient services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. STUDY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study of coverage for outpatient services in lieu of inpatient services under the Medicare program. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) the cost of providing to a Medicare beneficiary outpatient drug benefits and coverage for supplies, appliances, equipment, laboratory tests and nursing services required for appropriate outpatient treatment in lieu of continued hospitalization;

(2) whether payments under part A of the Medicare program may be reduced if a Medicare beneficiary is provided the outpatient services described in paragraph (1), including any duplicate payments made for a Medicare beneficiary who is transferred from a hospital to a nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or other post-hospital care facility;

(3) potential savings to the Medicare program if a Medicare beneficiary is provided the outpatient services described in paragraph (1), including savings with respect to the decreased probability of nosocomial infections due to shortened inpatient stays; and

(4) how any such outpatient services should be reimbursed so as to ensure cost savings.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress on the study under subsection (a) and shall include in the report such recommendations with respect to coverage of outpatient services in lieu of

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inpatient services under the Medicare program as the Secretary deems appropriate.

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